

REFERENCE

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9. GREATER SPOTTED EAGLE (*AQUILA CLANGA*) BREEDING  
IN KEOLADEO NATIONAL PARK, BHARATPUR

A greater spotted eagle (*Aquila clanga*) nest was located on 15th April at the Keoladeo National Park. The nest was situated at a height of c. 14 metres on a Kadam (*Mitragyna parvifolia*) tree standing on the northern end of a big Kadam grove in the Keoladhar grassland.

Built on a thin branch about two metres from the main bole of the tree, it was quite difficult to examine. It was constructed mainly with Babool (*Acacia nilotica*) and Kadam (*Mitragyna parvifolia*) twigs, and the central depression was lined with green *Acacia leucophloea* leaves.

The eagles were easily identified as they were dark overall and had little white on the rump. In flight the contrast of dark brown underwing coverts and lighter flight feathers was quite conspicuous.

One oval, white finely speckled with reddish brown egg was laid on 22nd April.

Although Ali and Ripley (1983) mention it as "Resident and breeding in West Pakistan (Baluchistan, Sind and Punjab) and N. India (Gangetic plain), Nepal (lowland) east through Bihar, W. Bengal and Assam". I have not come across any recent record of this species of eagle breeding anywhere in its breeding range within the country.

Abdulali and Panday (1978) described the greater spotted eagle (*Aquila clanga*) as "Winter migrant, does not breed here". It is a new breeding record for Keoladeo National Park. Unfortunately the nesting was not a success as the nest was destroyed in a heavy storm on 26th May and was not rebuilt.

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